



# HOLDEN

## Worcester County



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## NARRATIVE

### **Narrative**

The Town of Holden is a small suburban community located in central Massachusetts just south of the Wachusett Mountain ski area and west of the City of Worcester. Holden is a residential town with a limited business district and one industrial park off of the main street, which is Route 122A. The town is governed by an elected five member board of selectmen and an appointed town manager and is known for its forward thinking management philosophies. The townspeople are very aware of the need to keep the small town "charm" and at the same time broaden the tax base with appropriate light industrial and small commercial businesses.

(Narrative supplied by community)



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# GEOGRAPHY

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## Location

Central Massachusetts, bordered by Paxton and Rutland on the west; Princeton on the north; and Sterling, West Boylston, and Worcester on the east and southeast. Holden is about 46 miles west of Boston, 55 miles northeast of Springfield, and 183 miles from New York City.

**Total Area:** 36.22 sq. miles

**Land Area:** 34.99 sq. miles

**Population:** 14,628

**Density:** 418 per sq. mile

## Climate

(National Climatic Data Center)

(Barre Falls Dam Station)

Normal temperature in January.....20.0°F

Normal temperature in July.....67.2°F

Normal annual precipitation.....42.1"

## U.S.G.S. Topographical Plates

Worcester North, Paxton, Sterling, Wachusett Mt.

## Regional Planning Agency

Central Massachusetts

## Metropolitan Statistical Area

(1993 Definition)

Worcester



# GOVERNMENT

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## Municipal Offices

Main Number: (508) 829-0225

[Telephone Numbers for Public Information](#)

## Form of Government

Board of Selectmen

Town Manager

Open Town Meeting

## Year Incorporated

As a town: 1741

## Registered Voters (Secretary of State 1994)

	Number	%	
Total Registered	9,449		
Democrats	1,832	19.4	%
Republicans	2,238	23.7	%
Other parties	2	0.0	%
Unenrolled Voters	5,377	56.9	%

## Legislators

[Senators and Representatives by City and Town](#)



# DEMOGRAPHICS

**Table DP-1. Profile of General Demographic Characteristics: 2000**

Geographic Area: Holden town, Worcester County, Massachusetts

[For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, see text]

Subject	Number	Percent	Subject	Number	Percent
Total population.....	15,621	100.0	<b>HISPANIC OR LATINO AND RACE</b>		
<b>SEX AND AGE</b>			Total population.....	15,621	100.0
Male.....	7,542	48.3	Hispanic or Latino (of any race).....	150	1.0
Female.....	8,079	51.7	Mexican.....	16	0.1
Under 5 years.....	1,004	6.4	Puerto Rican.....	42	0.3
5 to 9 years.....	1,156	7.4	Cuban.....	10	0.1
10 to 14 years.....	1,326	8.5	Other Hispanic or Latino.....	82	0.5
15 to 19 years.....	1,090	6.9	Not Hispanic or Latino.....	15,471	99.0
20 to 24 years.....	461	3.0	White alone.....	15,125	96.8
25 to 34 years.....	1,495	9.6	<b>RELATIONSHIP</b>		
35 to 44 years.....	2,707	17.3	Total population.....	15,621	100.0
45 to 54 years.....	2,583	16.5	In households.....	15,475	99.1
55 to 59 years.....	931	6.0	Householder.....	5,715	36.6
60 to 64 years.....	660	4.2	Spouse.....	3,873	24.8
65 to 74 years.....	1,067	6.8	Child.....	5,162	33.0
75 to 84 years.....	865	5.5	Own child under 18 years.....	4,081	26.1
85 years and over.....	296	1.8	Other relatives.....	390	2.5
Median age (years).....	40.1	(X)	Under 18 years.....	101	0.6
18 years and over.....	11,397	73.0	Nonrelatives.....	335	2.1
Male.....	5,388	34.5	Unmarried partner.....	164	1.0
Female.....	6,009	38.5	In group quarters.....	146	0.9
21 years and over.....	10,957	70.1	Institutionalized population.....	137	0.9
62 years and over.....	2,581	16.5	Noninstitutionalized population.....	9	0.1
65 years and over.....	2,218	14.2	<b>HOUSEHOLD BY TYPE</b>		
Male.....	920	5.9	Total households.....	5,715	100.0
Female.....	1,298	8.3	Family households (families).....	4,422	77.4
<b>RACE</b>			With own children under 18 years.....	2,140	37.4
One race.....	15,497	99.2	Married-couple family.....	3,873	67.8
White.....	15,214	97.4	With own children under 18 years.....	1,852	32.4
Black or African American.....	76	0.5	Female householder, no husband present.....	414	7.2
American Indian and Alaska Native.....	15	0.1	With own children under 18 years.....	239	4.2
Asian.....	154	1.0	Nonfamily households.....	1,293	22.6
Asian Indian.....	35	0.2	Householder living alone.....	1,112	19.5
Chinese.....	36	0.2	Householder 65 years and over.....	554	9.7
Filipino.....	5	-	Households with individuals under 18 years.....	2,222	38.9
Japanese.....	15	0.1	Households with individuals 65 years and over.....	1,503	26.3
Korean.....	96	0.2	Average household size.....	2.71	(X)
Vietnamese.....	13	0.1	Average family size.....	3.13	(X)
Other Asian <sup>1</sup> .....	14	0.1	<b>HOUSING OCCUPANCY</b>		
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander.....	1	-	Total housing units.....	5,827	100.0
Native Hawaiian.....	1	-	Occupied housing units.....	5,715	98.1
Guamanian or Chamorro.....	-	-	Vacant housing units.....	112	1.9
Samoa.....	-	-	For seasonal, recreational, or		
Other Pacific Islander <sup>2</sup> .....	-	-	occasional use.....	21	0.4
Some other race.....	37	0.2	Homeowner vacancy rate (percent).....	0.4	(X)
Two or more races.....	124	0.8	Rental vacancy rate (percent).....	2.5	(X)
<i>Race alone or in combination with one</i>			<b>HOUSING TENURE</b>		
<i>or more other races: <sup>3</sup></i>			Occupied housing units.....	5,715	100.0
White.....	15,323	98.1	Owner-occupied housing units.....	5,063	88.4
Black or African American.....	103	0.7	Renter-occupied housing units.....	662	11.6
American Indian and Alaska Native.....	41	0.3	Average household size of owner-occupied units.....	2.81	(X)
Asian.....	207	1.3	Average household size of renter-occupied units.....	1.96	(X)
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander.....	7	-			
Some other race.....	72	0.5			

- Represents zero or rounds to zero. (X) Not applicable.

<sup>1</sup> Other Asian alone, or two or more Asian categories.

<sup>2</sup> Other Pacific Islander alone, or two or more Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander categories.

<sup>3</sup> In combination with one or more of the other races listed. The six numbers may add to more than the total population and the six percentages may add to more than 100 percent because individuals may report more than one race.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000.



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# HOUSING CHARACTERISTICS

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**Home Sales** (Banker & Tradesman) -

[Town Stats - Free market Statistics](#)

**Subsidized Housing Units** (DHCD 1998)

[DHCD Subsidized Housing Inventory](#)

Subsidized Housing Units: The number of housing units which count toward the municipality's 10% goal for low- and moderate-income housing. It includes both subsidized affordable units and market rate units in certain eligible subsidized developments.

**Public Housing Units** (DHCD 1999)

Conventional State:	56
Conventional Federal:	0

**Rental Assistance**(DHCD 1999)

State (MRVP:	2
Federal (Section 8):	58



# TRANSPORTATION

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## TRANSPORTATION AND ACCESS

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Located in the Worcester area, which has three major cross-state highways: the Worcester Turnpike (Route 9), Route 20, and the Massachusetts Turnpike. I-495 borders to the east, I-190 connects to the Fitchburg-Leominster area, I-84 and I-395 connect to Connecticut and points south. The region is well connected by rail and highway to the ports, airports, and intermodal facilities of Boston and Providence.

### Major Highways

Principal highways are State Routes 31 and 122A.

### Rail

Passenger rail service to Boston, Springfield, Providence, and all other points on the Amtrak network is available through neighboring Worcester. The Providence & Worcester Railroad provides freight rail service to Holden. Contact number: (508) 755-4000 ext. 310

### Bus

Holden is a member of the Worcester Regional Transit Authority (WRTA), which provides fixed route service between Holden and Worcester. The WRTA also offers paratransit services for the elderly and disabled.

### Other

The Worcester Municipal Airport, a Primary Commercial (PR) facility with scheduled passenger service, is easily accessible. It has 2 asphalt runways 5,500' and 6,999' long. Instrument approaches available: Precision and non-precision.



# CULTURE AND RECREATION

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## LIBRARIES

[Board of Library Commissioners On-line Library Catalog](#)

## MUSEUMS

(American Association of Museums)

None

## RECREATION

[Telephone Numbers for Public Information](#)

**Recreational Facilities** (Recreational sites and activities)

[Department of Environmental Management Recreation Section](#)



# MISCELLANEOUS

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## HEALTH FACILITIES

(Dept. of Public Health 1992)

### Hospitals

None

### Long Term Care

Holden Nursing Home Inc

Wachusett Extended Care Fac.

### Hospices

None

### Rest Homes

None

### UTILITIES

[Telephone Numbers for Public Utilities](#)



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# ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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NOTE: The COMMUNITY PROFILE draws information from a diversity of sources. The main source of information is listed under each section. In some instances comments submitted by the municipality were incorporated to correct and/or enhance the information obtained from the main source. However, no changes were made to those data bases which must be consistent throughout the state. DHCD has made efforts to ensure the accuracy of all data in the COMMUNITY PROFILES, but cannot take responsibility for any consequences arising from the use of the information contained in this document.